

Memorandum

Date: September 1, 2020
To: Electrical Inspection, Plan Review and Code Compliance teams.
From: Mark Whitmill, Building Official
Subject: Inspection of electrical work done without permit.

The following policy applies to electrical systems installed without required permits and work concealed without required inspections.

A. General

1. Electrical work will be inspected for conformance with the Oregon Electrical Specialty Code in effect at the time of permit application, regardless of when the work was performed.
2. For commercial structures, industrial and multi-family dwellings, a licensed electrician shall be on site during the inspection. For one- and two-family dwellings an electrician may be required on-site at the discretion of the electrical inspector. The installation may be required to be de-energized prior to inspection at the discretion of the electrical inspector.
3. All electrical panel and splice boxes shall be opened for inspection for the entire systems installed without required inspections.
4. Bonds to metal piping systems shall be exposed and inspected. Ufer grounds shall not be accepted if installed in a foundation that was constructed without required inspections.

B. Licensed contractor installations

1. All items identified as “mandatory inspections” in accordance with OAR 918-271-0040 shall be made accessible and available for inspection by the city electrical inspector:

918-271-0040 Mandatory Inspection Practices

(1) Electrical inspectors shall inspect and verify the appropriateness of the size, placement, protection and termination of the following electrical installations. Inspectors shall note discrepancies and require correction of code violations pursuant to OAR 918-098-1900. Physical contact is not required to inspect the electrical installations listed below.

- (a) Service entrance conductors;
- (b) Service equipment;
- (c) Grounding electrode and grounding electrode conductor;
- (d) Bonding;
- (e) Overcurrent protection;
- (f) Branch circuits;
- (g) Feeders; and
- (h) Underground installations.

(2) Electrical inspectors shall test ground-fault circuit interrupter devices (GFCI) and arc-fault circuit interrupter devices (AFCI) for functionality. Ground fault protection services (GFP) shall be performance tested in accordance with the Oregon Electrical Specialty Code.

2. Items identified as “secondary considerations” in accordance with OAR 918-271-0050 shall be made selectively accessible for inspection at the discretion and direction of the electrical inspector.

918-271-0050 Inspection of Secondary Considerations

- (1) Electrical installations not specified by OAR 918-271-0040 are secondary items.
- (2) At least 30 percent of all secondary items at a job site shall be inspected using a sampling process that reviews all separate categories of secondary items. If code violations are found within the samples inspected, an additional ten percent of the secondary items shall be inspected.
- (3) If additional violations are found, the inspector shall:
 - (a) Require the permit holder to check all other similar categories of installations on the job site;
 - (b) Advise of the correction of all defects; and
 - (c) If warranted, inspect all other similar categories of installations on the job site.

For the purpose of this memorandum, branch circuit size, overcurrent protection and termination are considered “mandatory”; branch circuit conductor placement and protection are considered “secondary”.

3. The electrical inspector shall verify box fill and ground system bonding via selective inspection. The electrical inspector has the option of requiring the removal of electrical receptacles, switches or fixtures as required.

C. Homeowner installations (as allowed by ORS 479.540(1))

For owner installations the following are options for demonstrating compliance:

Option 1

1. Expose and make available for inspection all electrical work covered under the scope of the permit, including all work that was concealed without obtaining required inspections.

Option 2

1. Have a licensed electrical contractor review the building electrical system and provide a report identifying any code deficiencies and proposed corrections, and
2. Make the work accessible for inspection as outlined in section B above.

D. Testing

Testing may be allowed in lieu of a required visual inspection at the discretion of the building official. Pre-approval is required. The test(s) shall be performed by an approved agency using an approved method.